

(b) The Election Commission is reviewing the entire matter with a view to ensuring that identity cards are issued to all eligible electors within a revised time-frame. The Commission, however, has not yet fixed any revised deadline for issuance of photo identity cards to all electors.

[Translation]

#### Price Index

1967. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the increase in the consumer price index in the country during 1996;

(b) whether there has been a wide gap between the wholesale price index and consumer price index in the country during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The details of increase in the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers, CPI(IW) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for the last three years and the gap between the two series are given in the attached statement.

The CPI(IW) during the year 1996 has increased from 315 in January, 1996 to 328 in May, 1996. The gap between WPI and CPI(IW) ranged between a low of 6.6 to a high of 14.8 during the period April, 1993 to May, 1995. Thereafter the gap has increased to a high of 23.9 by May 1996.

(c) variation in the magnitude of rise between the two indices is due to the difference in the composition and relative weights of their respective basket of commodities. The WPI monitored on weekly basis monitors movement of wholesale prices of 447 commodities of all traded goods. The CPI (IW) reflects monthly movements in retail prices of 260 commodities and services. The high relative rise in CPI(IW) reflects the impact of increase in prices of food and food products which have a higher weightage in CPI(IW) than in WPI.

#### STATEMENT

##### Monthly Index of WPI and CPI(IW)

Month	WPI Base 81-82	CPI (IW) Base 1982	Absolute difference
1	2	3	4
Apr 1993	234.6	245	10.4
May	237.0	246	9.0
Jun	239.8	250	10.2
Jul	243.1	253	9.9
Aug	247.0	256	9.0

1	2	3	4	5
Sep		250.9	259	8.1
Oct		252.2	262	9.8
Nov		251.6	265	13.4
Dec		251.7	264	12.3
Jan 1994		252.7	263	10.3
Feb		254.8	265	10.2
Mar		257.6	267	9.4
Apr		262.3	269	6.7
May		265.4	272	6.6
Jun		268.1	277	8.9
Jul		271.3	281	9.7
Aug		272.1	284	11.9
Sep		273.2	288	14.8
Oct		274.7	289	14.3
Nov		276.2	291	14.8
Dec		279.9	289	9.1
Jan 1995		283.3	289	5.8
Feb		284.7	291	6.3
Mar		284.9	293	8.1
Apr		288.4	295	6.6
May		291.7	300	8.4
Jun		292.6	306	13.4
Jul		294.2	313	18.8
Aug		296.1	315	18.9
Sep		297.4	317	19.6
Oct		297.9	319	21.1
Nov		299.2	321	21.8
Dec		297.8	317	19.2
Jan 1996		297.4	315	17.6
Feb		297.9	316	18.1
Mar		299.4	319	19.6
Apr		301.4	324	22.6
May		304.1	328	23.9

[English]

#### Smuggling of Arms/Drugs

1968. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Arms and Drugs are pouring in India through various Indo-Pak boundaries; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop such inflow?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes. Sir. Reports of enforcement agencies indicate the Indo Pakistan border is vulnerable to smuggling of arms and drugs.

(b) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of arms and drugs. Measures taken to deter smuggling include strengthening of anti smuggling formations, fencing of the border, intensive patrolling, use of equipment like hand held search lights, night vision binoculars and strengthening of intelligence network. Anti smuggling agencies of centre and states are acting in a concerted manner to thwart attempts to smuggle contraband including arms and drugs on Indo Pak Border.

[Translation]

#### **Suggestion Made by FICCI for Increasing Exports**

1969. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any scheme from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to encourage exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi have made some suggestions regarding Exim Policy and measures to promote exports. The paper has inter alia mentioned problems such as supply and cost of power, port facilities, infrastructure bottlenecks, liquidity crunch, incidence of taxes and levies etc. It has suggested the strengthening of information base and commercial intelligence, promoting Indian investment overseas and the need for building brand image for Indian products besides suggestions on Exim Policy changes.

(c) and (d). Steps are continuously being taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other concerned institutions. These include simplification of Export Import Policy and procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation etc. Very recently, India Brand Equity Fund has been launched; the Central Budget for 1996-97 has also given emphasis for attracting investment for infrastructure development.

#### **Evasion of Excise/Customs Duty by Companies**

1970. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :  
(a) the names of such companies against whom departmental and/or judicial action is being taken for

evasion of excise duty and/or customs duty to the tune of more than 100 crores rupees;

(b) the names of those companies against whom such cases have been pending in Central Excise Gold Control Appellate Tribunal, High Courts or Supreme Court for more than three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy recovery of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Companies against whom proceedings have been initiated on charge of evasion of Central Excise and/or Customs duties of more than Rs. one hundred crores are :

1. M/s I.T.C. Ltd.
2. M/s GTC Ltd.
3. M/s National Tobacco Co./Duncan Agro Industries Ltd.
4. M/s Reliance Industries Ltd.
5. M/s Mehta Trading House Pvt. Ltd.
6. M/s Indian Charge Chrome Ltd.

None of the cases are pending before CEGAT, High Courts or the Supreme Court for more than three years.

Various measures are being taken to expedite finalisation of the cases at the stage of adjudication and appeal before the Tribunal and Courts. These include appointment of common adjudicators to exclusively deal with some of the cases which are complex, appointment of senior Counsel to represent the Department and amendment of the Central Excise & Salt Act 1944 and Customs Act 1962, to provide for interest to be charged on delayed payment of duty.

[English]

#### **Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana**

1971. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and achievement made for the year 1995-96 under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, State-wise;

(b) whether the achievement of Madhya Pradesh Government is not in accordance with the target fixed as on March 31, 1996, and

(c) the number of persons who were provided loans under the above scheme upto March 31, 1996 along with the total amount of loan provided?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, a target of 2,60,000 beneficiaries was fixed for the year 1995-96 inclusive of earlier years backlogs. The State/UT Governments were communicated targets so as to achieve the national target. The statement showing State-